

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-46 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-8 and 20 are presently under consideration; and Claims 9-19 and 21-46 are withdrawn from consideration without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,262,787 to Kamoi et al. (hereinafter "Kamoi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,812,974 to Hinata et al. (hereinafter "Hinata"); Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamoi and Hinata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,330 to Ando et al. (hereinafter "Ando"); Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamoi, Hinata, and Ando in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,504 to Yamauchi et al. (hereinafter "Yamauchi"); and Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,335,771 to Hiraishi et al. (hereinafter "Hiraishi") in view of Kamoi.

Turning now to the rejections of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamoi in view of Hinata, Ando, and Yamauchi (summarized above), those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a display apparatus including, *inter alia*, a glass substrate having an outer surface attached to a film formed of a polarizer plate. The film has a thickness greater than the glass substrate. Claims 2-8 depend from Claim 1.

The outstanding Office Action cites Kamoi as teaching the claimed glass substrate and film. More particularly, the Office Action cites the polarizer plate 3 of Figure 2 as teaching the claimed glass substrate; cites the liquid crystal layer 13 of Figure 1 as teaching the claimed film including a polarizing plate; and cites column 3, line 56 as teaching the

claimed thicknesses of the glass substrate and film. Thus, Applicants presume the Office Action cites the above-noted excerpt as teaching a thickness of Kamoi's polarizer plate 3 as greater than a thickness of Kamoi's liquid crystal layer 13.¹

However, the cited portion of Kamoi does not disclose the thicknesses of the cited polarizer plate 3 and liquid crystal layer 13; and, specifically, Kamoi does not disclose the polarizer plate 3 being thicker than the liquid crystal layer 13. Rather, the cited portion discloses only the relative thicknesses of the polarizing plates 24, 26 and substrates 10; i.e., $D = L + (\pm 30) \mu\text{m}$, where D and L are the thickness of polarizing plates 24, 26 and substrates 10, respectively. As the relative thicknesses of the cited polarizer plate 3 and liquid crystal layer 13 cannot be determined from Kamoi, Applicants cannot discern the manner in which the Office Action is asserting those components and the cited portion as teaching the claimed glass substrate and film. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action does not meet the burden of establishing that Kamoi teaches the claimed glass substrate and film.

Applicants note that the relative thicknesses of Kamoi's polarizing plates 24, 26 and substrates 10 teach away from the claimed thicknesses. More particularly, as noted, Kamoi teaches a thickness D of polarizing plates 24, 26 and a thickness L of substrates 10 as having the relationship $D = L + (\pm 30) \mu\text{m}$.² Kamoi further states:

“As it is considered that an unevenness of colors on a PF-LCD and its reliability are in a trade-off relationship, the polarizing plates 24, 26 cannot be made to be much thinner than the substrates 10. Accordingly, it is better for the polarizing plates 24, 26 to be **almost a same thickness** as that of a substrate 10, **or to be only slightly thinner** (within $30 \mu\text{m}$) than the substrates 10...”³ (emphasis added)

¹ Office Action, 4/19/2005, page 3.

² Kamoi, col. 3, lines 49-60.

³ Kamoi, col. 4, lines 23-30.

As Kamoi teaches that the thickness of the polarizing plates 24, 26 should be less than the thickness of the substrates 10, one skilled in the art would not view Kamoi as suggesting a polarizing film having a thickness greater than an attached glass substrate (as claimed).

The above-noted distinction is highlighted by the objects of Kamoi and the claimed invention. Kamoi teaches the relationship $D = L + (\pm 30) \mu\text{m}$ to reduce irregularities of the colors in the PF-LCD. As a result, Kamoi states that the polarizing plates 24, 26 should be almost as thick as the substrates 10. On the other hand, the claimed thicknesses were chosen to reduce damage to the **glass substrate** caused by bending, i.e., to reinforce the claimed substrate. As a result, the thickness of the claimed film is greater than the thickness of the substrate. As Kamoi utilizes **polymer film substrates 10**,⁴ Kamoi is not concerned with reducing damage to the substrates 10 caused by bending. Clearly, the above-noted objects of Kamoi and the claimed invention are unrelated; and lead to different teachings for the relative thicknesses of transmissive substrates and attached polarizing films.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamoi be withdrawn. Applicants submit that none of the other applied references, i.e., Hinata, Ando, Yamauchi, nor Hiraishi, cure the above-noted deficiency of Kamoi.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hiraishi in view of Kamoi, Applicants note that Claim 20 recites a display apparatus including, *inter alia*, a light-transmission insulation substrate having a major surface with a polarizer plate disposed thereon, wherein the polarizer plate has a thickness greater than the light-transmission insulation substrate. The Office Action cites Kamoi as teaching the claimed thicknesses of the light-transmission insulation substrate and polarizer plate. Though Claim 20 does not recite the light-transmission insulation substrate as being a glass substrate,

⁴ Kamoi, col. 1, lines 34-36.

Applicants reassert that Kamoi does not teach the claimed thicknesses in view of the above-noted deficiencies of Kamoi.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hiraishi in view of Kamoi be withdrawn.

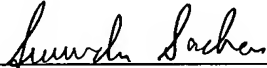
Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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